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The Y Receives Funding to Teach Children to be Safer In and Around Water

Boca Raton, FL (4/11/23) – The YMCA of South Palm Beach County was awarded \$57,500 in grant funding from the Florida Alliance of YMCAs to deliver Drowning Prevention and Safety Around Water education to children from underserved communities in South Palm Beach County.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, fatal drowning is the second-leading cause of death for children ages one to 14 years old. In ethnically diverse communities, the youth drowning rate is two to three times higher than the national average, according to a USA Swimming study. Additionally, 64 percent of African-American children, 45 percent of Latino children, and 40 percent of Caucasian children have no or low swimming ability.

“Educating children how to be safer around the water is just as important as teaching them to look both ways before they cross the street,” said Libby Moon, Drowning Prevention Coordinator for the YMCA of South Palm Beach County. “The Y teaches children of all ages and backgrounds that water should be fun, not feared, and this practice not only saves lives it builds confidence.”

The Boca and Boynton YMCAs will host a Healthy Kids Day event at their branches this Saturday, April 15, 2023 and will be taking applications for grant-funded swim lessons from 10am-1pm at the event.

The Y has been a leader in providing swim lessons and water safety education for more than 50 years. There are a variety of programs to choose from, including family swim, competitive swim teams, Aquatics camp and more. To learn how to qualify for financial assistance, please contact Libby Moon at 561-237-0950, Lmoon@ymcaspb.org.

About the YMCA

Driven by its founding mission, the YMCA has served as a leading nonprofit organization committed to strengthening community for more than 175 years. The Y empowers everyone, no matter who they are or where they are from, by ensuring access to resources, relationships and opportunities for all to learn, grow and thrive. The YMCA of South Palm Beach County serves as a community anchor in Palm Beach County by enriching lives and strengthening community through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. The YMCA of South Palm Beach County is comprised of The Peter Blum Family YMCA

of Boca Raton, The DeVos-Blum Family YMCA of Boynton Beach, THE LAB: YMCA Leadership Academy, and the YMCA@901 NCCI. For more information, please visit YMCASPBC.org.